

Standard Operating Procedures for Volunteers using Double Tap Block Bait

Purpose of this guide

This guide has been developed to provide OPBG volunteers with practical guidelines for the transport, use and storage of Double Tap Block Bait.

What is Double Tap?

The two active ingredients that make up Double Tap are:

- Diphacinone – 0.05g/kg
- Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3) – 0.60g/kg

Double Tap was developed to produce a rat and possum bait that was as potent as brodifacoum but did not leave significant residues in the environment.

Diphacinone has a short life, so it does not bioaccumulate, whilst cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3) is sufficiently slow acting to reduce bait shyness. You do not need a Controlled Substances Licence (CSL) to buy or use Double Tap.

Why is OPBG using Double Tap?

The traps we are using to target possums are often stripped of their bait by rodents, reducing the likelihood of trapping a possum. On many of our possum traplines we have teamed each possum trap up with a ground based rodent station to target the bait thieves! Whilst Double Tap is aimed specifically at possums and rats, users have found it to be effective against mice too.

Risks from Double Tap

Toxins are an important tool in any pest control operation; however, they do have a degree of risk and present several hazards. It is important to understand these risks and be aware of the practical measures required to minimise these hazards.

By following these guidelines volunteers will be able to keep themselves safe, as well as other people, children, pets, and wildlife.

Storage

- Your toxin will be provided in a labelled resealable container. It is important that you store your toxin in this container both to prevent degradation of the toxin and for security and recognition.
- Toxin may be decanted into more a convenient container in the field, if necessary, but any unused toxin should be returned to its original packaging after the work period.
- Toxin should be stored in a cool dry place and must be stored in a location inaccessible to children and animals.
- Toxin must be stored away from food and animal feed.
- Upon receiving any toxin, you will be provided with a material safety data sheet which contains important information and safety instructions. It is important that you read and understand this document (our staff can help with this) and keep it with your toxin.

Usage

- It is important that the manufacturer's instructions and warnings are followed at all times.
- Even repeated small exposure to toxin can result in poisoning so care must be taken to minimise potential exposure.
- Gloves must be worn while handling toxin and any clothing or gloves exposed to toxin should be washed after the work period.
- Care should be taken to avoid inhaling any dust from your toxin. If there is a risk of toxin becoming airborne masks should be worn.
- Any spillage should be cleaned up immediately and returned to the bait station or packaging.
- It is important that no uncontained toxin is left in the field.

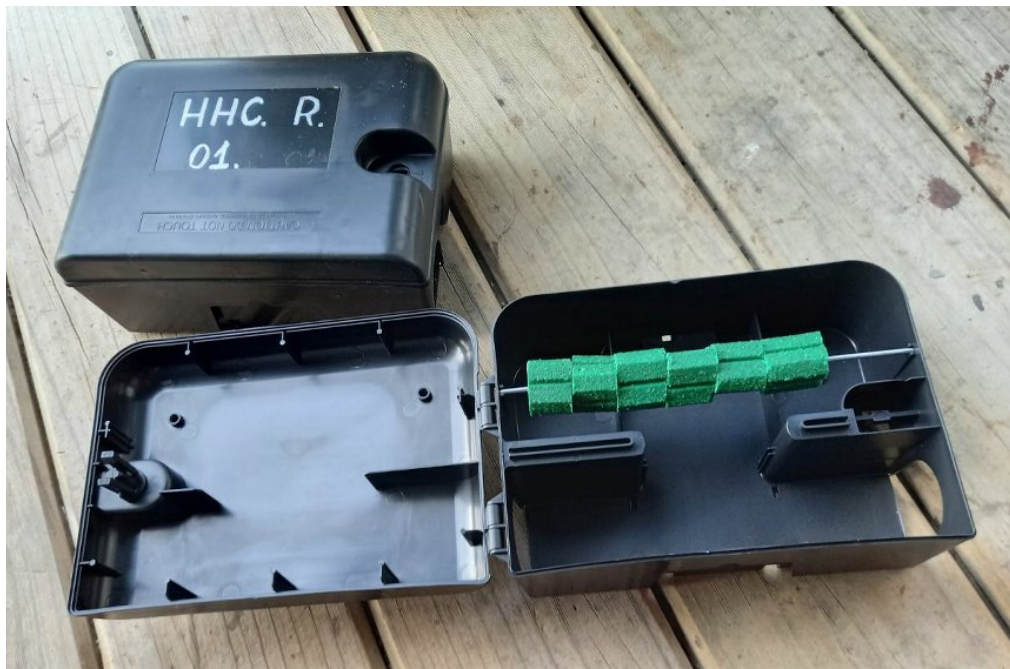
Disposal

Toxin left in the field creates a risk to wildlife and pets as well as the risk of sublethal doses to target species creating bait aversion. So it is important that when an operation has concluded or the toxin has reached the end of its service period that it is removed from the field and disposed of in a safe manner. Old bait should be stored in a separate container from fresh toxin until it can be returned to OPBG for disposal. Toxin removed from the field is still poisonous so must be stored with the same care and attention as fresh toxin.

Servicing – Bait Stations

Toxin work is carried out in pulses throughout the year, most often during autumn and spring. During a toxin pulse, bait stations should be serviced either weekly or fortnightly. Your Community Coordinator will let you know when a toxin pulse is coming up. Each station should be filled with 6 blocks (approx. 170g) of toxin at the start of a toxin pulse and topped up as required throughout the duration of the pulse.

1. Open bait station, estimate how much bait has been taken and record on your data sheet.
2. If bait has been taken, look for signs of what has eaten it (poo, bodies, bite marks).
3. Assess the condition of remaining bait. If any bait is wet, mouldy, no longer secure, or otherwise in a bad condition then remove and store in a separate container to the fresh bait.
4. Clean station with fragrance free wipes (get rid of any poo, old bait).
5. Replace bad bait with up to 6 blocks of new bait threaded onto the rod.
6. Add a smear of peanut butter at the entrance.
7. Lock lid. Double check it's locked!
8. Record data in Trap.NZ.



We must keep pets and children safe when using toxic bait

- Always keep your bait container or bag SHUT inside your backpack when not in use.
- Never leave your bag open or unattended, especially near paths, dogs, or children.
- Remove toxin containers from vehicle immediately when returning from fieldwork.
- Under no circumstances leave toxin containers in vehicle when transporting pets or young children.

When using toxic bait, we must adhere to these safety requirements

- Use gloves when touching bait.
- Do not eat or drink when handling bait.
- Avoid inhaling bait dust (wear a mask when decanting).
- Always carry the product safety label (provided by OPBG) with your bag of bait.

First aid for Double Tap

Routes of Exposure:

If in Eyes	Rinse cautiously with water for 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice.
If on Skin	Wash with plenty of soap and water. If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.
If Swallowed	Do not induce vomiting. Wash out mouth thoroughly with water. Never give anything to the mouth of an unconscious person. If vomiting occurs, place victim face downwards, with the head turned to the side and lower than the hips to prevent vomit entering the lungs. Seek medical attention if needed.
If Inhaled	Remove person to fresh air. Remove contaminated clothing and loosen remaining clothing. Allow person to assume most comfortable position and keep warm. Keep at rest until fully recovered. Apply artificial respiration if not breathing. Get medical advice if breathing becomes difficult.

If you suspect an animal has ingested Double Tap then call a vet immediately for advice.

Amendments approved by the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Trust Board: July 2025